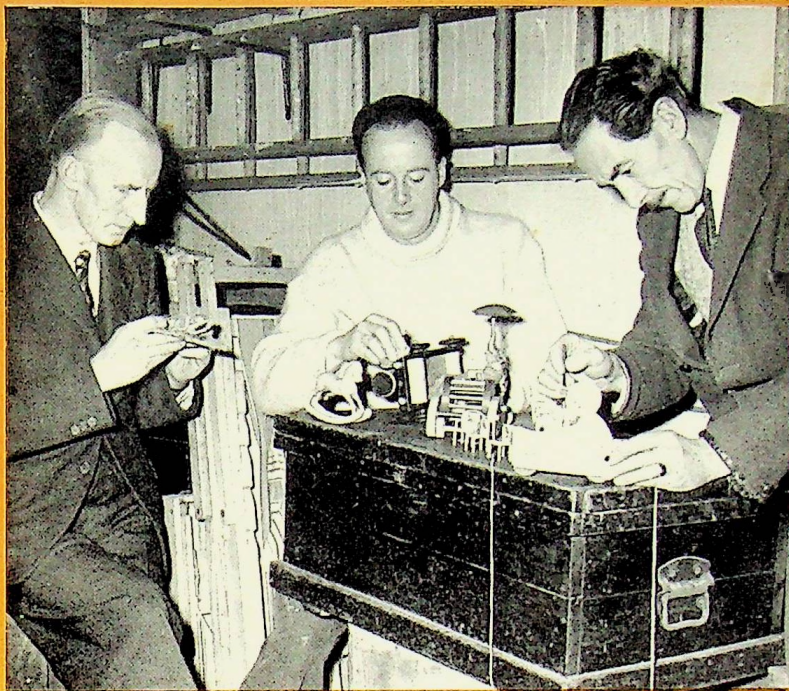


TOC H JOURNAL



NOVEMBER
1959

PRESENTING NEWS, VIEWS AND IDEAS



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FORTY-SEVEN
FRANCIS STREET - LONDON - S.W.1



Christmas Cards

Following the announcement in our last issue that this year's Christmas Cards were on sale, orders have been coming in fast. Details of the three designs are again given at the back of this number and, to prevent possible disappointment, readers are asked to complete and send in the Order Form without delay.

Diaries

This has been a difficult year for diary manufacturers on account of the printing trade dispute which led to the loss of seven weeks' production time. Fortunately, the strenuous efforts towards catching up on a tremendous back-log of orders made by Messrs. Charles Letts & Co. Ltd., have succeeded, and we are glad to announce that the 1960 Toc H Diaries are now available. The cost is 4s. 3d. (or fitted with pencil 4s. 9d.) and an order form is printed at the back of this number.

Taxi!

Sorry, wrong number! What we wanted to say was — GRAB ME A GONDOLA! The Scala Theatre, London, on Tuesday, February 16, when the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society is giving the first-night performance for the new Mark III, is a 'must' for your diary. Advance block bookings by Branches will be welcomed.

Advertisements

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the Journal pages very helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries should be sent to Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H Journal is published monthly, eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



NOVEMBER 1959

Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

In and Out	322	Notes and Comment
'Be Vigilant'	324	Clifford F. Pollard
Pioneering for BELRA	327	Robin Dunford
'Fall Out'	328	Eric Freeman
The Elder Brethren	329	Roll of Honour
Town's Show	331	Colin Wintle
Multum in Parvo	333	Much in Little
Keynotes for Keymen	334	Keynotes—15
Opening the Innings	335	Phil Liner
Far Cry, Overseas Notes	337	Geoff Martin
From All Parts	341	Area News
Stockport Children's Camp	346	Harold Gardner
'To Build Bravely'	349	Steve Regis

Together with a Supplement:

DOR KNAP

A Toc H Conference and Training Centre

COVER PICTURE: Toys for Christmas. A timely reminder, showing members of Datchet Branch repairing toys to be later distributed to children in local hospitals on Christmas Day

Photograph by courtesy of The Windsor, Slough and Eton Express

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LONDON SW1 · TELEPHONE VICTORIA 0354

In and Out

notes & comment



Work for Ex-prisoners

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURING EMPLOYMENT for ex-prisoners is stressed in the report of the Central After-Care Association published last month. Sir Lionel Fox, the association's chairman, says: "There can be no doubt that it is of primary importance in the rehabilitation of the offender that he should be able to find honest work to support himself and his family on his discharge. We recognise that in times of difficulty when work is scarce the ex-prisoner cannot expect to be given preference over others who may be seeking employment, but it is also right that he should not be prejudiced just because he has been in prison." In the same report, Frank Foster, director of the Borstal After-Care division, writes: "I am more than ever convinced that the offenders . . . of recent years present more difficult problems than ever before. We seem to be dealing with a generation that can best be described as having a lower threshold of stress and a low tolerance of frustration. . . . One result is irrational conduct often accompanied by unpremeditated offences of an almost infantile character. It is not surprising that on returning to ordinary life after discharge this group shows a high and early casualty rate. Their failures follow an almost set pattern: an attempt to run away from the situation, walking out of work, going absent from the Army, running away from home, followed by petty, unprofitable and easily detected crime. Of one fact" he adds, "I am satisfied: The high reconviction rate amongst this group is not a measure of lack of care."

All Hallows Christmas

THIS YEAR'S PLANS FOR KEEPING CHRISTMAS at All Hallows, the Guild Church of Toc H, were outlined to us the other day by Padre John Durham. Instead of a Nativity Play, the Christmas Message will be told in music, prose and poetry at 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. In addition to organ music, carols will be sung by a quartet and by the whole congregation. City workers will be invited to "Come and Sing Carols" during at least part of their lunch-time on Tuesday, December 22 and a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, January 10. Fuller details of the dates and times of Services will be given in next month's JOURNAL.

Rugby Football

THE FIRST NUMBER OF A NEW PUBLICATION, *Touchline*, produced by Toc H London Rugby Football Club, tells of the Club's progress since its start last season and of the many obstacles still to be overcome. Amongst them is the need for more players to provide a second fifteen and a pitch for 'home' matches as, being at present groundless, all the Club's fixtures are of necessity 'away' ones. There is also a need for increased support from non-playing members. Readers who would like to encourage this gallant venture are asked to send a modest annual subscription of five shillings to the Club's Hon. Secretary: Miles Quest, Toc H Mark XX, 67 Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15.

Broadcast Tape-recordings

TAPE-RECORDING MACHINES ARE NO LONGER A novelty. Many Branches today either possess their own recorder or know where one can be borrowed. In looking for new ways in which the 'magic tape' can be employed, our imagination has been quickened by a small book by Mr. Kenneth Methold, a schoolmaster, giving a very personal account of his experiences in using a tape recorder and employing broadcasting techniques with his pupils. The book's title is *Broadcasting with Children* (University of London Press Ltd. 9s. 6d.) but includes much that is equally applicable to Youth Clubs and, we dare say, to Toc H Branches. Specimen scripts are included showing how anyone with little literary ability can prepare simple dramatisations as a means of introducing a topic or presenting information and, on the technical aspect, how much can be done with one microphone, one gramophone and a cheap recorder.

A New Old Friend

LAST MONTH WE WERE ABLE TO WELCOME BACK on the bookstalls *John O' London's*, an old friend who had been 'missing' for five years. Started soon after World War I, this weekly sign-post to literature and the arts over thirty-five years built up a unique readership and influenced considerably the choice of books they read. Now that the five-year gap has been closed, the outlook of the new *John O' London's* will be international, drawing attention not only to British books, but also to those from other parts of the world where a book is regarded as a friend and where even television has not ousted the reading habit. We wish the new old friend, well.

Early Start

AN ANTE-NATAL CLINIC HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED in the village of L***** (Devon), thanks to the efforts of local members, after they had been addressed by the District Nurse.

—extract from a Branch Report.

'Be Vigilant'

CLIFFORD F. POLLARD

The Beds. & Herts. Area Executive invited one of its members, a Padre, to write some notes for the Branches in the Area about the Birthday Vigil to be held during the twenty-four hours from 9 p.m. on Friday, December 11.

"**B**E SOBER", said St. Peter (with little thought of Toc H in his mind), "be vigilant". Sobriety in Toc H circles is probably past praying for, but is there any reason why we shouldn't be vigilant? After all, it merely means being on the watch and we can all do that.

In particular we can do it on December 11-12 when our customary World Chain of Light is expanded to form a Vigil.

Now in all honesty, we must admit that the name is a bit forbidding. It probably conjures up pictures of the knights of old who thought nothing of spending all night in church to consecrate their swords to the service of God. Lonely, rather eerie, and damnably hard on the knees. No wonder we think twice about being vigilant if that's what it means. But does it?

The point is that fundamentally Toc H is a Godfearing society; its roots are firmly based on spiritual things. However beautiful a flower or a prize-winning marrow may be, ultimately that beauty depends entirely on how much food the roots can get hold of. Starve the roots and you starve the plant. Just the same applies to our Movement: ignore your spiritual roots and you find your Branch is ignored.

Making the effort

That is why every so often we should make a point of strengthening our foundations. You have to be vigilant in the garden, so why not be vigilant in the Branch? Why not make an *effort* to do it because (as the man said when he robbed the gas meter) the more you put in the more you get out. It would be well worthwhile if *one* Branch held a Vigil; how much more worthwhile if *every* Branch were to do it!

We are used to having our World Chain of Light. It is easy to picture the Lamps being lighted in turn all round the world as the earth revolves and it comes up to 9 o'clock local time in each country. All that the Vigil means is that instead of lighting our Lamp at 9 o'clock and then putting it out, we

keep it alight all through the twenty-four hours. We don't 'hand on' to the next link in the World Chain. Instead, we take our share in forming a World Ring of Prayer. During those twenty-four hours we keep watch by our Lamp and ask God's help and guidance for our world-wide Movement. It is as simple as that.

Full support

How then should we go about holding our Vigil? First of all, let's make sure that there is support from every single man in the Branch (and every married man too, because they can be shocking scroungers! "I have married a wife and therefore I cannot come"). Then let's make up our minds that nothing less than the whole time for the whole Branch will do. Notice, *'the whole time for the whole Branch'*, not *'the whole time for each member'*. If every man will take his share with the others, the whole twenty-four hours can be achieved comparatively easily. There are not many men who can't give up one hour's sleep in a good cause.

But what do you *do* in the Vigil? Well, first, what you *don't* do. You *don't* sit in solemn silence staring at each other and trying to look holy. You *don't* spend the whole time kneeling down. You *don't* say to yourself "I could never do it so I won't try". No. You *do* try to get a reasonable balance between reading and talking, between praying silently and praying out loud, between dying for a fag and smoking like a chimney. You *do* try to ask God to use you and your fellow members in His service in solid practical ways—even if those ways may sometimes be a bit uncomfortable. You *do* try to realise that you're not alone in this Toc H work—that every hour in the twenty-four there will be other Branches on watch with you.

Balance

Ideally then, every part of the twenty-four hours should be balanced out so that none of it gets boring. No-one expects absolute top-line concentration all through, least of all God, so there is plenty of scope for originality. In fact, so long as the essential theme of each hour is maintained, it doesn't matter much what you do.

For example: to read a bit from the Bible, to sing a hymn, to pray some of the excellent "Pocketful" prayers—all those things are good but a bit obvious. It might be just as valuable

for us to read some excerpts from a novel, to put on a skiffle record and to make up our own prayers in our own words. If the theme is adhered to, either way can be as good. Use your imagination. Don't be afraid to take risks. Remember we are concerned with what Toc H will be doing in 1960 and 1961 and that means we must think and pray in bang up-to-date ways. Even what went well in 1959 might be no good then.

Imagination

We shall find a good deal of help in planning if we study parts of the 1955 booklet on *The Theme of the Vigil* and the new literature from Headquarters when it arrives. But don't forget—that's only a foundation. We have to build on it starting *now*, and use our imagination. Why not collect pictures from newspapers and magazines of the different countries where the light will shine out as we think of them in turn? Why not write to the various tourist centres for brochures? We may get new insights into local problems as much by what is left out as what is said. If you know somebody abroad send him a greeting and *ask him for some news*. If somebody in your Branch collects stamps why not get him to arrange a display of pictorials? Any chance of inviting a citizen of that country to join in too? (Embassies might help.) Be imaginative and take a chance.

Perhaps that is enough for us to realise how important this Vigil is going to be, and how important it is that *every* member in *every* Branch should play some part. It will certainly call for some effort—maybe for some sacrifice of time and convenience—but let's make up our minds now that we shall not be left out.

* * *

From the August number of *The Lamp* (India):
"The *World Chain of Light* will be observed by Vigils held locally on the Birthday of Toc H from 9 p.m. on Friday, December 11, to 9 p.m. on Saturday by local time. If your Branch has even the slenderest link with any Branches overseas, do send them news of yourselves and ask for news in return, so that you may all picture each other's situation and needs more easily. If you have no such contact, write at once either to the Hon. India Commissioner or to Geoff Martin, the Overseas Secretary at Headquarters—and something will be done."

Pioneering for BELRA

ROBIN DUNFORD

DURING THE PAST year and a half I have been working as the BELRA Manager of the Basel Mission Leprosy Settlement at Manyemen in the Southern Cameroons. In this potentially rich little country the greatest difficulty to rapid development is the lack of adequate communications. While every effort is being made to reconstruct existing roads and to construct new roads there are great difficulties when the engineers can only rely on four, maybe five, months of the dry season in which to use heavy road-making machinery and when most of the territory is hilly, forest country.



"The Kumba to Mamfe road is not all that you might expect from a 'Trunk A' road"

It is against this background of bad communications that all the leprosy work based on Manyemen must be viewed. The Settlement is situated in the centre of the Forest Area sixty miles north of Kumba and sixty miles south of Mamfe. The Kumba to Mamfe road is not all that you might expect from a Trunk A road. On occasions last rainy season it took our lorry—which has four-wheel drive—anything from twenty-four to thirty-six hours to bring supplies from Kumba, sixty miles away. These conditions lasted for three months, and it is because of this that the development of the work has been slow.

Since the work was started five years ago, however, some progress has been made. The Settlement has been established to house and treat 500 in-patients and plans have been made to increase this number. The development of the Settlement has not been easy with the difficulty in obtaining supplies and with the fact that every square inch of building and farming land has had to be cleared from thick forest.

Outside the Settlement at eleven clinics scattered throughout the Forest Area a further 600 patients receive out-patient treatment and the number of clinics is increasing. The fact that nearly 100 patients were discharged as cured last year has been of great value in making the treatment popular but it is not only a popular treatment which is needed to make a good leprosy service.

In countries where leprosy work has been established for some years it is often calculated that the number of patients needing treatment is three times the number actually receiving treatment. For the Forest Area in the Southern Cameroons this would mean that, at least, 3,300 patients are needing treatment but the true figure is probably much greater.

In leprosy work in the Southern Cameroons, and in other countries, there is still pioneer work for BELRA. The leprosy problem is still a big one and the basic needs, now that we have a treatment which is effective in the majority of cases, for funds and staff to maintain and develop centres of relief for leprosy patients will remain for some years to come.

'Fall Out'

ERIC FREEMAN

WHEN THE OLD 'SWEATS' at Chiseldon Camp 'fell out' during the 1914/18 war they 'fell in' to Swindon for a cuppa at the T*** H***, as our Editor will readily confirm.

Times have changed. 'Fall out' is now a modern phrase with a much more sinister meaning and 'falling out' of Chiseldon Camp now leads to a brand-new Branch of Toc H.

The building operations outlined in the JOURNAL of May, 1958 have well and truly continued. The "well-built vicarage" stands firm in pleasant surroundings and the job of building

Toc H goes pleasantly on. Some wonderfully strong foundation stones are receiving the weight of calm, thoughtful endeavour.

Quite recently a most impressive and forthright dedication service was conducted by "the much travelled Vicar". The new Area Secretary, Johnnie Macmillan, was there, so was the District Team complete with Chairman and Secretary. Many friends of the new Branch and visiting members from Wroughton, Rodbourne, Swindon, Wootton Bassett, and Purton, swelled the crowd. The District Lamps were there and the new Lamp was dedicated.

Chiseldon then repeated that wonderful feat of providing for the inner man for which it is justly famed.

Afterwards the assembly listened to a talk from Johnnie which left no one in doubt as to what Toc H must do and what its members must understand if it is to succeed.

The initiation of the members was then undertaken by the Chairman of the District, Maurice Haskins, with Wroughton members acting as sponsors. An enjoyable sing-song ended this day's jubilant building operation.

The Elder Brethren

BELL.—On June 2, JOSEPH WATSON BELL, aged 87, a member of Thornton-le-Moor Branch. Elected 24.8.'57.

BLACKSHAW.—On August 26, WILLIAM ALFRED BLACKSHAW, aged 67, a member of Langport Branch. Elected 12.12.'52.

BRAUNTON.—On September 1, EDWARD BRAUNTON, aged 69, a member of Combe Martin Branch. Elected 19.10.'38.

CRABB.—On August 29, FREDERICK GEORGE CRABB, aged 61, a member of Chelsfield Branch. Elected 24.8.'45.

GAMMON.—On August 13, Canon FREDERICK SIDNEY GAMMON, aged 72, a member of Keston Branch. Elected 24.9.'25.

OFFERMAN.—On September 4, ALBERT ERNEST OFFERMAN, aged 64, a member of Newington-in-Thamet Branch. Elected 27.11.'52.

ORMEROD.—On August 10, the Rev. EDWARD WARRING ORMEROD, a member of East Woodhay Branch. Elected 1922.

OSBORNE.—On September 5, LESLIE WELSH OSBORNE, aged 52, a member of Carshalton Branch. Elected 26.4.'38.

ROBERTS.—On August 18, HERBERT ROBERTS, aged 73, a member of Bailiff Bridge Branch. Elected 23.4.'58.

STEPHENS.—On August 30, REGINALD STEPHENS, aged 65, a member of Saltash Branch. Elected 3.3.'44.

WARREN.—On September 10, RAYMOND WARREN, aged 71, a member of Sidcup Branch. Elected 1.7.'38.



Ghent



Damme



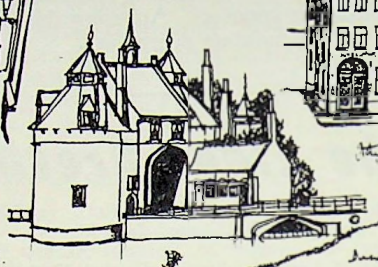
Bruges



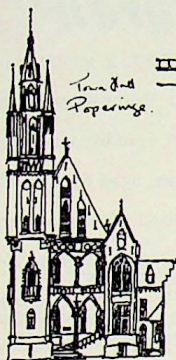
Damme
Windmill



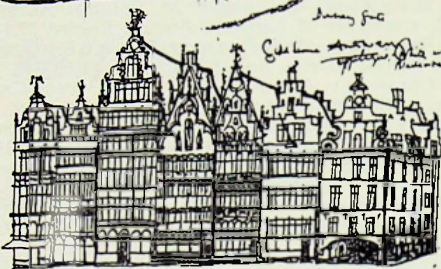
Hotel Janin



Large gate



Town Hall
Poperinge



Side line showing the
apartment houses

FROM A FLANDERS SKETCH-BOOK

Some of the impressions gathered by Geoffrey D. Robinson
when he accompanied a Toc H party to Belgium this summer

Town's Show

COLIN WINTLE

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA 'went to town'—its own town—for three blazing days in early September at Southend Town Show, held in the townspeople's own hinterland of splendid Priory Park, a longish bus ride from the pier and the parades, the cafés and the candyfloss, the shouting and the shellfish.

The resident population has increased remarkably in recent years. In 1948 it just exceeded 148,000. The 1951 Census showed 151,500. It is now estimated at well over 158,000. Many are elderly newcomers, spending their retirement in the bracing air. Light engineering and other industries provide a livelihood for a considerable "new" population of younger folk who are rearing their families in post-war houses. All of them are now townspeople of Southend. Do they realise it? Do they know what goes on?

Show's object

The object of the Town Show—the first ever staged—was to introduce Southend to itself, or, more specifically, to introduce the two Southends to each other. It did so on a scale which was vast, and with a flourish which was superb. And Toc H was in it from first to last, for the need was seen originally by a member who happens to be also on the Council. He persuaded his civic colleagues—who then, in the time-honoured British way, saddled him with the job of getting on with it by making him secretary-organiser of the whole Show!

Covering some twenty-two acres was a host of giant marquees, their contents reflecting every aspect of the Town's life, from horticulture to social services, from amateur photography to professional soldiering.

There were many smaller tents, stalls and pavilions besides; and every exhibit had a constructive message to convey. Dominating the scene was the arena, where a full-scale tattoo (explosions and all) was staged by military and other units.

Toc H made the best of its modest allocation of twelve feet frontage and six feet depth in the social services marquee. Acting on the principle of giving the passer-by something to do (and thus preventing him from just passing by) there was a large map of the district, and when buttons were pressed little

pea-bulbs lit up, showing the locations of the various Toc H men's and women's branches. This was the main Toc H exhibit, and before each button-presser wandered off he was handed a very informative (but commendably brief) leaflet about Toc H, with the names of the fifteen Branches and the names and addresses of initial contacts in those Branches.

On the way out, your correspondent spotted an elderly but proud motor-coach, parked unobtrusively at the side of the main gate through which the thousands of townsfolk flocked to the Show. This was the Toc H vehicle which does such sturdy service in taking cripples about; but this time the inside was empty of wheel-chairs—and full of the most alarmingly efficient broadcasting equipment. Toc H had been entrusted with the “contract” for all the sound broadcasting at the Show but also—through their land-line for football broadcasts—they had supplied the local hospitals with a special “Press preview” of all the sections and, later, had presented minute-by-minute ‘live’ commentaries from the tattoo arena.

After all, the patients are townspeople, too, and it was their Town Show. One can only hope that the vicarious excitement was not too much for them!



A black and white advertisement for Senior Service cigarettes. The background is dark. On the left, the words "Ahead for Quality" are written in a large, white, serif font. Below this, in a smaller white serif font, are the words "WELL MADE" and "WELL PACKED". On the right, a hand holds an open pack of Senior Service cigarettes. The pack is white with a dark band across the middle. The top of the pack is open, showing several cigarettes. The pack features a circular logo with a crown on top and the words "SENIOR SERVICE" and "Satisfy" inside. Below the logo, it says "The Perfection of Cigarette Luxury". The pack also has "20 SENIOR SERVICE" written vertically on the side.

Ahead
for
Quality

WELL MADE
WELL PACKED

SENIOR SERVICE
Satisfy

SENIOR SERVICE
The Perfection of Cigarette Luxury

20 SENIOR SERVICE

Multum in Parvo

much in little



☘ THE BIRTHDAYS OF TOC H and TUBBY will be celebrated by the holding of VIGILS on the occasion of the WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT from 9 p.m. on Friday, December 11 to 9 p.m. on Saturday. General Members, Toc H Builders and other friends are invited to offer their services to local Branches for one or more hours during the twenty-four.

☘ JOHN JANS, after being attached to the staff in the U.K., is returning to his native land this month to become Australian Field Officer.

☘ PETER ORFORD, South Africa, has been attached to the home staff and is working at present in South Wales.

☘ The Rev. H. J. (JACK) HOBBS, Vicar of Dosthill, Tamworth, Staffs., has been appointed Area Padre (part-time) in the West Midlands.

☘ Wing-Commander GEORGE PRIGMORE has been obliged through ill health to resign from his office as General Members' Hon. Secretary. He has put in a lot of work during the last seven years, and has earned the gratitude of many members.

☘ HEADQUARTERS is still at 47 Francis Street, S.W.1! It will move to Tower Hill next year!

☘ CENTRAL COUNCIL: The Annual Meeting will be held at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire, during the week-end of April 29—May 1, 1960.

☘ BRANCH MEMBERS are asked to review their membership during November and December and to inform their Branch Executive that they wish their names to be included on the Branch Roll for 1960.

☘ 'PEOPLE TO PEOPLE': The Week of International Friendship from November 22 to 28. This is a focus-point for Branches working on Keynote Project No. 4.

☘ CHRISTMAS PRESENTS for giving to members of Toc H: a Toc H Tie, a Toc H Car Badge; and for Members to give or receive: a Toc H Diary, a subscription for the *Toc H Journal*, *New Forum*, *The Log*, *The Compass*, *The Lamp* and *The Link*, or a bound Toc H Book. For prices, ask for an Order Form.

☘ OBERAMMERGAU, 1960: It is now time to book if you want to secure one of the places for men (men only now) in the Toc H Pilgrimage to the Passion Play and visiting the Tyrol from May 28 to June 11. Enquire of O.P.P.P., 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.



15

Keynotes for Keymen?

A young member from South Africa contributes his impressions.

WHAT a responsible title! Keymen: who are they? Many Branches have thought much before inviting the 'most responsible, most enthusiastic' of their younger men to be Keymen. Other Branches chose young members—no further thought!

Yet, despite the occasional lack of thought in choosing Keymen, the men chosen have accepted the challenge. In a *responsible* way they have thought about the notes, investigated them (with outside people and with other Toc H men, in their Branch and further afield, even with H.Q.) and then gone back to their Branch and discussed their findings, and have put forward schemes for *activating* their plans.

Thus through their 'responsible' efforts they have got their fellow-members thinking less about themselves and more about others. They have stimulated a new spirit of 'life' in the Branch. They have built up a desire to go out and show others the Christian way of life—LOVE for God and neighbour. These couples in each Branch have in fact taken part, in a responsible way, in starting a new era in Toc H.

Or Have They?

Have their fellow members chosen wisely? Have they encouraged—or have they been 'irresponsible' in being uninterested?

Have the Keymen been 'responsible' in their efforts? Have they done many, many more things? I say, on the whole. Yes.

The Keynotes' plan, even in its first year, has proved and is proving to be all that and more. But is the new era, the new broom sweeping clean, and then leaving a vacuum behind?

I have, as a visitor, been privileged to take part in a Key-note Conference at Warminster in Wiltshire, and I have heard of the pleasure and enthusiasm which had come from the 'responsible' hard work put into their efforts.

New ideas! What a feast from such a small group! And even the big projects, which would draw in the assistance of many outside people, were personal. Ideas . . . they covered new thoughts on Branch life, helping and teaching others to help themselves, and ways and means of tackling their jobs . . . duties, pleasures.

I could not help feeling how privileged we all were in being 'in on this'. But what a responsibility—even for 'responsible' people!

KEYNOTE CONFERENCES, 1960

BRANCH EXECUTIVES AND BRANCH KEYMEN are asked to take note now of these dates and places for the Conferences to be held next year, in each case from Friday evening, or 2 p.m. Saturday at latest, until 4 p.m. on Sunday:

March	18-20	The Gean House, Alloa, Scotland.
April	1-3	Plas-y-Coed, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.
April	22-24	Caythorpe Court, Grantham, Lincs.
May	6-8	The Pleasaunce, Overstrand, Norfolk.
May	13-15	Mamhead Park, near Exeter, Devon.
July	8-10	Gilbertson Hall, Swansea, S. Wales.
July	15-17	St. Boniface College, Warminster, Wilts.

Opening the Innings

PHIL LINER

YOU KNOW HOW EXCITING starting a new group can be. There was nothing lacking here—blokes with experience and those without. As always the problem of accommodation reared its head. Now this is a fairly new residential area and so there were none of the old loft and barn type rooms for a meeting place. Then—and this proved to be the key moment—one of the founder members of Toc H in Birmingham, Jack Mould, lived in Shirley.

At about this same time, a local cricket club found that its cricket pitch had been taken over to accommodate a crematorium. This left a pavilion going spare. Wonders will, of



Visitors at the opening of Shirley group's pavilion headquarters

course, never cease. Lo and behold! we found that the owner of the property was none other than Jack Mould. Now, in very typical manner the pavilion was offered to the group for a headquarters. Of course, we jumped at the chance.

After a lot of hard work, by the men and the women who had become a Branch, it was decided that our official opening must be in the Grand Manner. The speaker at events like this is all important and we were most fortunate in "securing the services" (as they say) of one of the early Toc H Padres, Ronald Royle. Better known, doubtless, to many older members as 'Oogaf'.

Taking the bit between our teeth, we decided to invite the Mayor. The Mayor of Solihull, it transpired, was the head of the firm that makes our Toc H badges and so he was delighted to come and join in the frolics, together with the Lady Mayoress. On a gloriously warm day, well over 150 folk from all over the Birmingham district came along to see us officially opened.

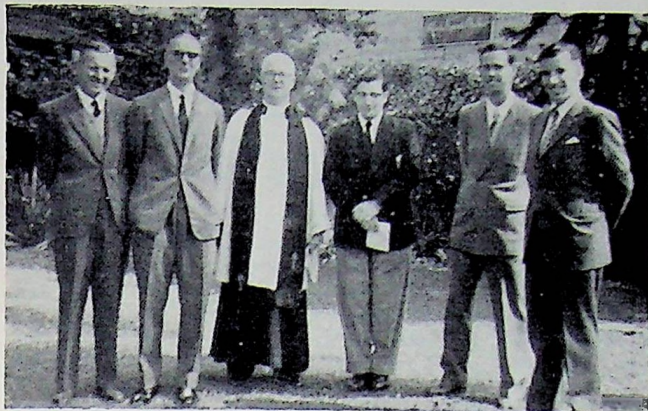
Now, of course, being well and truly launched at the deep end, the group looks forward to early recognition and to Branch status with a growing membership in this important part of the industrial Midlands. The pavilion will lend itself to all sorts of activities and we have visions of club activities being introduced in the autumn, but whatever the ultimate decision, we know that we are just going in to open a notable first innings.



Far Cry

overseas notes

GEOFF MARTIN



Members of the Toc H group at Sao Paulo, taken in the grounds of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Sao Paulo, Capital, Brazil

NEW ARRIVALS IN ETHIOPIA

EARLIER in the year HAROLD SUCH of Farlington Branch took his family from Portsmouth to Ethiopia, where two other members, ALEXANDER ZOGRAPHOS (Alexandria) and ARTHUR PATERSON (Seven Kings, London) were already established. This is how he sees life in Addis Abbaba.

As you may know, I am a Housemaster at the Imperial Ethiopian Air Force Technical School, prior to that I was teaching at the Portsmouth Technical High School. At first, life out here seemed very strange, the contrast of modern buildings in Addis and the very humble dwellings of the country folk did not seem to add up, but then one has to realise that it takes a long time for social reform to spread over the whole of a country. Debre Zeit is a large village about thirty miles south of the Capital, with many crater lakes in the vicinity, our home is on the edge of one called Lake Hora, and we are surrounded

by some tall slender trees. At present it is the rainy season and everything is green and beautiful, but during the dry season it is brown and dusty. As you can imagine, there are donkeys everywhere as they provide the chief means of cartage, there are also many mules and a few camels. Cars are becoming increasingly popular, and many of the Air Force personnel are to be seen going from their Mess (which is just up the road from our home) to the Hame Airfield which is adjacent to our school. I am enjoying the novel experience. . . . So far I have taken only one Service at the English Church in Addis (as a Lay Reader) but am expecting to take many later on when the Vicar goes on leave. Have given one talk on Toc H to the local American Mission, the students were very interested in the Movement and many questions were asked. Perhaps you would be kind enough to send me some suitable literature so that on the next visit I can leave them something to read and remember. Most of the Ethiopians are Coptic Christians, but this did not detract from their natural enthusiasm in hearing about an organisation which believes more in practical Christianity than theoretical, and I did endeavour to stress the idea of service.

FROM A NAVAL BASE

The small but active mixed group at the Singapore Naval Base takes a special interest in the Babies' Home run by the Salvation Army and the Jubilee Homes in Johore. Charles Clark, the present Secretary, says rather wryly "When I tell you that Mrs. Clark and myself knew nothing of Toc H until our arrival in Singapore, you can imagine we find it rather hard going". He goes on to describe the two homes in this way:

The Babies' Home has had the advantage of occupying new buildings built on the side of Bukit Timah Road, and yet, being separated by a green verge, escapes most of the noise of the busy traffic using this main road. The matron is a motherly, rosy faced, Dutch woman, bubbling over with humour and full of love and sympathy for the children entrusted to her care. She is assisted by one local nurse and six helpers. The ages of the children range from babies to seven years and number approximately ninety—some are orphans, some have no mothers to look after them, others are unwanted babies and, yet again, some have been brought in by police or social workers who have found them in dustbins, or perhaps abandoned on doorsteps. We take them clothing, toys and sweets and on each visit have been made very welcome: our only regret is that we cannot do more to help these kiddies.

The Jubilee Homes cover a large area in the country about eight miles from Johore. The buildings are built in dormitory fashion, each dormitory occupied by different classes and age groups. The children's ages vary from babies to seventeen years of age, number 175, and are of all races and types including mentally deficient, permanently crippled, blind and babies born of leper mothers. The Superintendent is a Malayan lady and has an assistant Matron, two teachers and a small staff of helpers assisted by the older girls. The boys help in the gardens and are taught useful hobbies whilst the girls are taught

domestic work, cookery and sewing—all who are able to receive education and the older ones are transported to school in Johore. The Home is State supported and in the past twelve months many improvements have been made, but the children welcome and make a fuss of all visitors. It is heartrending and pathetic to see some of the children and one feels so helpless—we pray that God will bless all the work carried on in these Homes.

John Maddock

S. E. ARNOLD

I THINK it would be true to say that the best-known man in Toc H, Yorkshire, today is the Area Secretary, John Maddock. When he retires this month he will have been Area Secretary for eleven years.

The fact that he has endured us, and that we have 'put up' with him for this length of time, gives an indication of his sterling worth and some idea of how much he is beloved within Toc H, Yorkshire. Even when he comes to chide us over our short-comings, he manages to do it in such a way that we still remain firm friends.



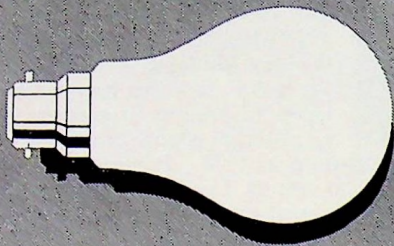
Yes, John has given many years in service to Toc H—perhaps not exactly gone grey but certainly he has lost it all 'on the top' in our service, for it was way back in 1935 when he first joined the staff. He was the East Midlands Area Secretary prior to the R.A.F. recalling him in October, 1939. Upon his return to civilian life in 1945 he was appointed Northern Area Secretary and came to Yorkshire in 1948. It pleases us to know that he will continue to live in Leeds and we look forward to seeing him amongst us at many of our meetings.

Our best wishes also go to Mrs. Maddock. We are sure that some part of John's success in dealing with Yorkshiremen (for let it be remembered he is a London Cockney) is due to the help he has received from his good lady.

John! We wish you all the very best in Health and Happiness and a long period of retirement.

Osram

**adds life to
your lighting**



THE WONDERFUL LAMP



From All Parts ***direct from areas***

NOTTS. & DERBY.—Autumn fairs are now having their run. **Arnold & Woodthorpe** (Nottingham), with the vigorous support of its youth club and 'Gang & Co.' concert group held theirs literally in the street. A live mouse theatre was a feature, as well as a relay race by the Youth Club. **Newark** gave a hand in a fair in aid of the local Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. **Derby District** held theirs on October 3. **Ripley** is laying plans to get a group going at **Langley Mill**. Any names to **Alf Boston**, 18 Dove Road, Ripley, please. **Sandiacre** members spent a valuable week-end together in the Derbyshire dales. **Long Eaton** ran its annual cricket match in aid of their funds for the blind. They also helped in the running of the local Scout sports. General Members in **Derby** had the early privilege of welcoming the new Bishop of Derby at their lunch meeting in September. **Workshop** has undertaken a 'Know our Movement' scheme to encourage members in reading about Toc H. Plans to hold the Vigil in various parts of the Area are being made.

LES WHEATLEY.

SOUTHERN LONDON.—Some twenty-seven Keymen and others attended an Area Keynote Conference on September 26. Their aim was to find out what progress had been made since the first Keynote Conference at Haywards Heath and to share experiences and ideas for future action. Under the able chairmanship of Ron Clarke, Mayne Elson opened the batting, by pointing out that 'Keynotes' had been in operation for one year, and was showing signs that it was moving in the right directions. It was introduced to give growth to the Toc H Movement and was designed to get us out of a groove, to get new and young blood into our rank and file and to further our work in helping the community. 'Keynotes' were not just another series of conferences; and it was interesting to note that Projects 1, 2 and 3 had been taken by most Branches. At a later stage, Mayne dealt with the project dealing with 'Mixture', and suggested that the Branches were kidding themselves that they were in fact 'gathering widely different types of men together within the Branch'. He asked whether we had enough men doing manual work amongst us? The need for help from outside the Movement was stressed, and a number of Branches had called in other organisations to be jointly responsible for the Lifebelt Scheme for elderly folk. 'Loneliness' was discussed, and one Branch reported on its efforts at drawing up a Register of Digs, which had been passed over to the local Industrial Chaplain. The conference tried to come to grips with the need for more young men in Toc H, especially those below the age of forty.

SAM EVANS.



The Pearly King and Queen on a visit to Llandudno

NORTH WALES.—Mold District were the hosts for the Autumn Festival and members and friends from the North Wales, and many Border Counties Branches, enjoyed the hospitality and the inspiration of two pertinent addresses by the Rev. W. J. Thomas, Vicar of Formby, and the Rev. Herbert Leggate. Llandudno Branch enjoyed a most successful summer season and tapped the holiday makers for substantial contributions to the Family Purse and local charities. A return visit of the Pearly King and Queen in September was most fruitful, and a special week was climaxed by a first class Welsh Concert in the local theatre which was filled. A conference of all Branches is being held to study the present lack of development, and it is hoped this will be the first spur to a new outlook on "Extension and Expansion".

GWILYM A. EDWARDS.

EASTERN LONDON.—A rather intriguing new group of Toc H has been formed on board the Missions to Seamen vessel "John Ashley". The group consists of the Padre, who is also the skipper of the ship, and one or two members of his crew. The ship moves up and down the Thames and works among the seamen in the vast port of London. From time to time the Padre meets seamen who have had connections of one sort or another with Toc H. He plans to hold Toc H meetings on board and to encourage seamen to become members. The group is called the "John Ashley Floating group".

JIM GREEN.

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY.—Desborough (Joint) District Team's Extension meetings at Booker and Castlefield commenced last month. Brian Dickson, happily back on his bicycle again, led the first evening with Len Scarfe. The second evening took the form of an interpretation of Keynote 12, with all Branches in the District taking part. Maidenhead have acted as hosts to a number of parties brought to the riverside by Toc H Branches this summer. Their bath-chair pushing season also reached the highest-ever figure for outings and members taking part.

RAY FABES.

BEDS. & HERTS. Jack Shaw was back among old friends when he acted as the guest speaker at the Annual Area Rally held at the National Children's Home, attended by nearly half the members within the Area. During the Festival Service, conducted by Padre Pollard of **Luton**, the address was given by Padre Ewen of **Bushey**. These were the highlights of a well varied programme arranged by the local Branches **Harpenden** and **Batford**. The concluding rounds of the Area Darts Competition for the Norman Motley Cup were played off during the afternoon and resulted in a win for **Stony Stratford**, the runners up being **Harpenden**. The Pollard Trophy for the Car Rally held earlier in the year was also presented to the winner, a Builder from **Stevenage**. Whilst the Darts Competition was in progress, members enjoying an informal get-together were led on escorted tours of the Children's Home by members of local Branches.

FRANK R. FIGG.



Carlisle Journal

A visit from members of the Newcastle Infantile Paralysis Fellowship, sponsored by Newcastle and Carlisle District Teams (see Lakeland note on page 344)

SOUTH EASTERN LONDON.—Gravesend held their annual Guest Night in the Town Hall on Saturday, September 12, invitations having gone to all Branches in the District and voluntary organisations. The speaker was Mayne Elson, who talked about the needs of the lonely, referring to the Keynote Project undertaken by the Branch. The local Toc H Male Voice Choir contributed to the evening's programme. A joint District Conference for the **Dover Road** and **Thameside** Districts took place on Sunday afternoon, November 1, at Dartford. Keynotes and Branch life and organisation were discussed, and Phil Prior, a member of the Central Executive, spoke. **Horton Kirby**, who received their Lamp on July 8, have been transferred from the Kent Area into the South Eastern London Area. The Secretary is Bob Rolph, and they meet in the Committee Room, Village Hall, on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.

SAM EVANS.

FROM ALL PARTS

343

EAST MIDLANDS.—**Blackfordby** received their Lamp from Harry Gee the Area Chairman, at a well supported gathering when the previous Area Chairman, Archdeacon Cole, spoke on the effect the lives of new members might have on the life of the village. The new Branch has also achieved fame by being placed first in the Open Class of a competition organised by the Rural Community Council for Village Guide Books. **Mid-Northants** District had a day together at Knuston Hall under the leadership of members from **Peterborough** District who opened sessions on "Life in the local Branch" and "The Branch in the local life". **Coleorton** Branch celebrated their Birthday by a service distinguished by the overfull church, the sermon by the Bishop of Leicester and by the singing, which was followed by a cheerful Guest-night. **Abington** Branch entertained a party of twenty elderly ladies, whose ages ranged from 70-98, on an outing to Aynho Park in the Cotswold country. The ladies came from two of the local homes, and members' own transport was augmented by members of the Express Lift Co. Car Club. COLIN STEVENSON.

WESTERN.—**Bristol** members have been working hard at putting the Area Office in order. The Executive held their meeting there last month in the one room which is now quite presentable at the new Western Area Centre. The next job they will tackle is making the back lounge fit for use as a meeting room. **Bristol University Circle** programme this term is devoted to local aspects of Toc H. Slips telling of Toc H and the Circle have been inserted in the University Magazine and fifty attractive posters placed at points of vantage. Members of the circle plan to help the Film Unit and other activities during this winter term. **Henleaze** Branch have again taken the local Blind School children to the local Zoo. **Shirehampton** enlisted the help of two oil tanker apprentices in decorating their Branch room. **Lockleaze**, although still busy making their headquarters attractive, found time to lend a hand at the Area Centre. They have again planned a Dancing Display for the Family Purse for November 7. **Durdham Down's** Winter Programme contains a series on "Human Relations in Industry".

LAKELAND.—The visit of the Newcastle Branch of the I.P.F. has now become an annual event in the **Carlisle** District. This year the visitors who numbered about sixty were entertained to lunch and tea in the city and spent the afternoon either over the border at Gretna or in visiting the Cathedral. Before leaving they were entertained at a concert. In the **Furness** District renewed activity at **Haverigg** and **Dalton** towards the building of a holiday home on the Cumberland coast for under-privileged children goes on and it is hoped that by next year a great deal more work can be achieved. At **Allenby** the **Workington** Branch has been busy helping to decorate and alter another home for children; while throughout the Area the work with old people and at hospitals undertaken by many Branches and especially at **Morecambe**, goes on quietly. The **Langdale Camp** was full for a week of glorious weather in early July and many visitors have called at various points. Bob Purdy has opened the winter campaign for us and the results of the **Keynote Conference** at Guisland last month are awaited with interest. JOE WILLS.

YORKSHIRE.—The Keynotes Conference for Yorkshire was held in September. Attendance was not too good, many people falling by the wayside at the last minute. It seemed as if the most popular project was 'loneliness'. We were glad to welcome J. Bradford and S. Arnold from the Central Executive and John Callf and Rex Calkin from London. At the **Bridlington** Conference, held last month, some 150 people were present, with Miss Ruth Okell, Alec Churcher and Rev. Bob Knight as the speakers. Most Branches and Districts have considered the forthcoming Vigil and it seems likely that in many places a 24-hour vigil will be kept mainly on a District basis. The first meeting of **Newsome** (Huddersfield District) was held on October 13, and took the form of a pea and pie supper with a number of likely contacts as guests. **Dewsbury** continue to do a very good job with the barrel organ, raising money for the local friends of the hospital. **Huddersfield** Branch have just re-decorated their room and it is now a worthy meeting place. A new group has been started at **Brotherton House** and is now meeting about fifteen strong. Congratulations to them and all best wishes for the future. **Rillington** have recently raised about £150 for a Friendship Fund, at the disposal of the village. A meeting is being called of all organisations in the village to discuss its administration.

JOHN MADDOCK.



An entry in the local Gala Day tells the town of Toc H activities in and around Accrington

MANCHESTER.—Crewe District this year, by running the Alexandra Rose Day Collection, have accumulated a total of over £120 for the Family Purse. This effort, which has become an annual District job, gives the highest returns for special efforts of any District.

STEVE REGIS.

Stockport Children's Camp

HAROLD GARDNER

IN 1921, Tubby Clayton, whilst lying on a sunny bank on a Cheshire road-side, exhausted after a strenuous bicycle ride from Knutsford Jail, met Willis Turner, and from that conversation, Stockport Branch was born.

In 1924, a member of the Stockport Branch whilst cycling around Stockport on a Saturday afternoon, was appalled by the number of children playing amidst "those dark and Satanic mills" on a lovely day; from that bicycle ride, the Stockport Toc H Children's Camp was born.

In the summer of 1924, a few 'kids' were taken into the country to a place called Adlington, by a handful of inexperienced 'Blokes', laden down with a nucleus of a Camp, the main part being an old ex-W.D. bell tent, a bucket to stew meat in and a lot of hope and courage. This odd procession continued from then until 1933, when with the permission of the long suffering farmer, Stockport Rotary gave to Toc H Stockport an 18 foot by 40 foot Hut, to be used as a Children's Camp. The penny numbers increased until twenty-two children plus various 'volunteered for' friends of Toc H were regularly attending. A Cookhouse was added, meat supplied free by the Stockport Master Butchers Association, funds donated and raised until the War closed it down in 1939, when it was used by the Home Guard.

After the war when the Camp was re-visited, it was found to be a 75 per cent casualty and motions were set afoot to close it for good, particularly in view of impending socialisation which would render such naïve ideas unnecessary. To this end a soulful burial party met at the site to go into the demolition and removal, when the full beauty of its situation was really seen. Situated at the foothills of the Derbyshire Pennines, looking over the vast expanse of the lovely plains of Cheshire, in a field which though only six miles from the town, gave one the impression that civilisation was a thing to forget. It was then decided that to give so much up would be a sin, so working parties were gathered together and for eighteen months, summer and winter, work went on, buildings pulled down and rebuilt, huge twin oven coke stoves moved in with the help of 16-wheel R.E.M.E. wagons and in 1947, the Camp re-opened for its original use, bigger and better than ever before.

For this last twelve years, approximately 290 children a season go there at a running cost of £120 a year. Apart from Toe H itself, organisations using the Camp are the Family Service Unit (Manchester and Stockport), Boys' Brigade,



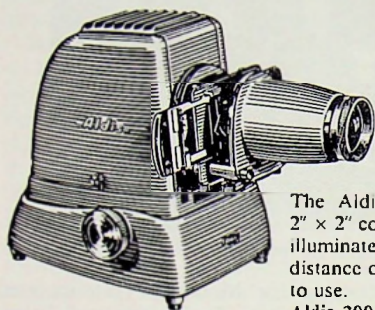
Campers at Stockport Toe H Children's Camp

Church Lads' Brigade, Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, Crippled Children's Society, Girls' Nautical Training Society. The work of maintaining, running and staffing such a project eventually proved too much for its originators, so in 1948, a Committee was formed of a member from each Branch in the District, given autonomous authority beholden to no other Committee or Team, it has devoted its whole

existence to the bettering of the Camp, choosing of the children and upon its shoulders rest most of the manual work of maintenance. When one considers that with only two exceptions, the original committee still does painting jobs, looks to next year's programme with enthusiasm, it speaks well of the spirit of Toc H.

One unfortunate thing is quite clear, that although the bootless, raggedly-britched youngster is no longer to be seen, the need of such a Camp, manned by volunteers and unhampered by local Government stipulations, is as necessary today as it was in the 'cold' twenties. Proof of this can be found in the help given by the Local Council; Rotary; Firms; Schools; Youth Clubs and individual people. Indeed, so well thought of is this almost unknown Toc H Camp, that Social Welfare Students from both Manchester and Bristol Universities have spent a fortnight of their summer holidays to study the effect of Camp life on a group of hand picked children. Suffice it to say that not only is the Stockport District Toc H Children's Camp the oldest but it is now the only Toc H owned Camp left in existence.

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'To Build Bravely'

STEVE REGIS

IF ONE WERE TO ADD UP all the schemes of all the Toc H Branches in the country which, for one reason or another have been rejected, the number, I think, would be staggering! "We haven't the manpower"; "It isn't possible"; "Where would the money come from?"; "If we were fifteen years younger. . . ." But occasionally a Branch refuses to submit to such barriers as these, and, having studied the problems, set to with an enthusiasm which never lags and which carries the boat forward right to the end. Such an effort is nearing its completion by Roe Green Branch.

After having moved seven times in eight years the members got somewhat frustrated with the upheavals: so they eventually decided to build a headquarters of their own, which would also serve a purpose for the 600-strong village on the north side of Manchester. That was early in 1958: by Easter they had started. Now, after having moved 150 tons of earth, laid 11,000 bricks, 3 tons of concrete and 20 tons of stone; used up 10 tons of sand, 3,000 sq. ft. of hardboard, 4,500 sq. ft. of asbestos, 300 sq. ft. of glass and various other bits and pieces, they have something resembling a modern hut: 72 ft. long by 24 ft. wide (plus an 8 ft. covered veranda soon to be started on) and 10 to 18 ft. high. All this, and complete with ladies' and gents' cloakrooms (with all the fittings), office stage-cum-branch room, kitchen (with electric cooker, double sinks and refreshment bar), and eight detached garages. Modern electrical lighting and equipment is already laid on, and in the near future the central heating system will be in use.

Looking at the 'bare bones' of the project, one would think that the men tackling it would be skilled experts, and that the Branch was a big one. But this is not at all the case. True they have men like Jack, an engineer—who like all good Toc H members has had many unofficial man hours of help from men in the firm for which he works in designing and construction. Also of great value are Bill, a bricklayer, and Arthur, a cabinet maker. But beside these are just three men. Frank, an insurance clerk, Alf, a pit maintainer, and a second Frank who is a salesman. And that is the sum total of the men who have been actually on the job! They estimate that so far they have



between them accumulated a total of over 5,000 man hours!

What is the cost of all this? By the time it is completed about £1,000. £200 of this was the cost of the structure of the hut—which was originally an M.O.S. hut at Rochdale—the transport of which took two 20-ton lorries arranged by Dick Roberts the Area Chairman. Nearly half of the cost has been met by the members themselves, and the rest it is hoped will come from the local inhabitants who will have the use of the hut for an Old Age Pensioners' Club, and occasions such as weddings, birthdays, etc.

Roe Green are hoping that besides its use as a Branch H.Q. it will find a use in the Area as a base for District Team meetings, Area Executives, Rallies, and so on. Perhaps the first use that the hut will be put to will be around Christmas when it is planned that the Branch and Mark XIV put on a party for needy children.

Many snags, of course, have cropped up—both in the realms of form filling and the actual construction—a case in point of the latter being how to put on the roof! Answer—build your own derrick! Week after week, month after month, year in year out, this small band of men have been working two nights a week and weekends on this mountainous task. They have proved their right to the title of those who 'Build Bravely'.

Toc H Christmas Cards

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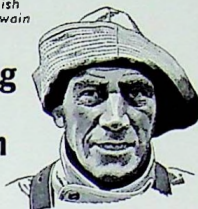
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